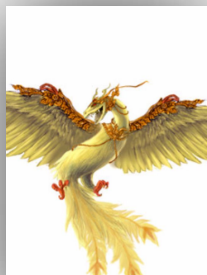




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Discovering the Legend of the Golden Sparrow



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Chapter 1 by Ethan Tan

The townsfolk often marvelled the glorious sight of the golden bolt that shot across the sky each morning and afternoon. After twenty years, it had become routine to pause momentarily for the sparrow to make it's way across the clouds.

If one were to get lost, they would only hope for the golden spark to shoot from east to west in the hours to come. Travellers took advantage of the bird to direct themselves if ever in need of direction.

Claudius Merriment stood at the stump of the willow tree, up on the secluded hill above the town. He was notorious for neglecting his duties to relax upon the hill every afternoon mid-shift.

He would have been fired over and over, time and time again, if not for the lack of bread in the village. The job he acquired, was a job that required his rare strength. The townsmen had no problem academically, but when it came to heavy lifting, they would collapse at the thought. So, they often found Claudius distracted, or absent from his job, because he had the luxury of never fearing eviction.

He gazed upon the golden streak, making its way towards the sun.

Claudius made his way down to the village once again, to return to his laborious job.

"Claud, it's such a sight isn't it?" Tully sighed, looking off into the sunset, where the sparrow had headed.

"Yeah."

"Where do you think the bird is?" Tully asked. Claudius looked up and saw the bird. Tully dropped his pickaxe to his side and leaned his weight onto the coal cart adjacent.

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Claudius shrugged. If he knew anything about the sparrow, his mind would finally be at ease. Everyone yearned to know more about the mysterious bird from adolescence, but Claudius spent his resting moments obsessing over it.

"I have to find out." He proclaimed, straightening his back into a proud pose.

"You can't be serious." Tully laughed at the thought of Claudius discovering the story of the Golden Sparrow. "There is no way."

"Watch me!" He announced. "I'll take a while off work to find out the truth about this sparrow."

"What about your job?"

"It can wait. I've been wondering all my life, we all have, and it's about time someone finds an explanation." He pivoted his body to Tully. "And you will help me."

"What?" Pulled himself away from him, distancing their bodies.

"Tomorrow at dawn... Pack your bags."

Their adventure began.

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